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The Long Island FISHERMAN

MARCH 14th, 1974, ISSUE NO. 9

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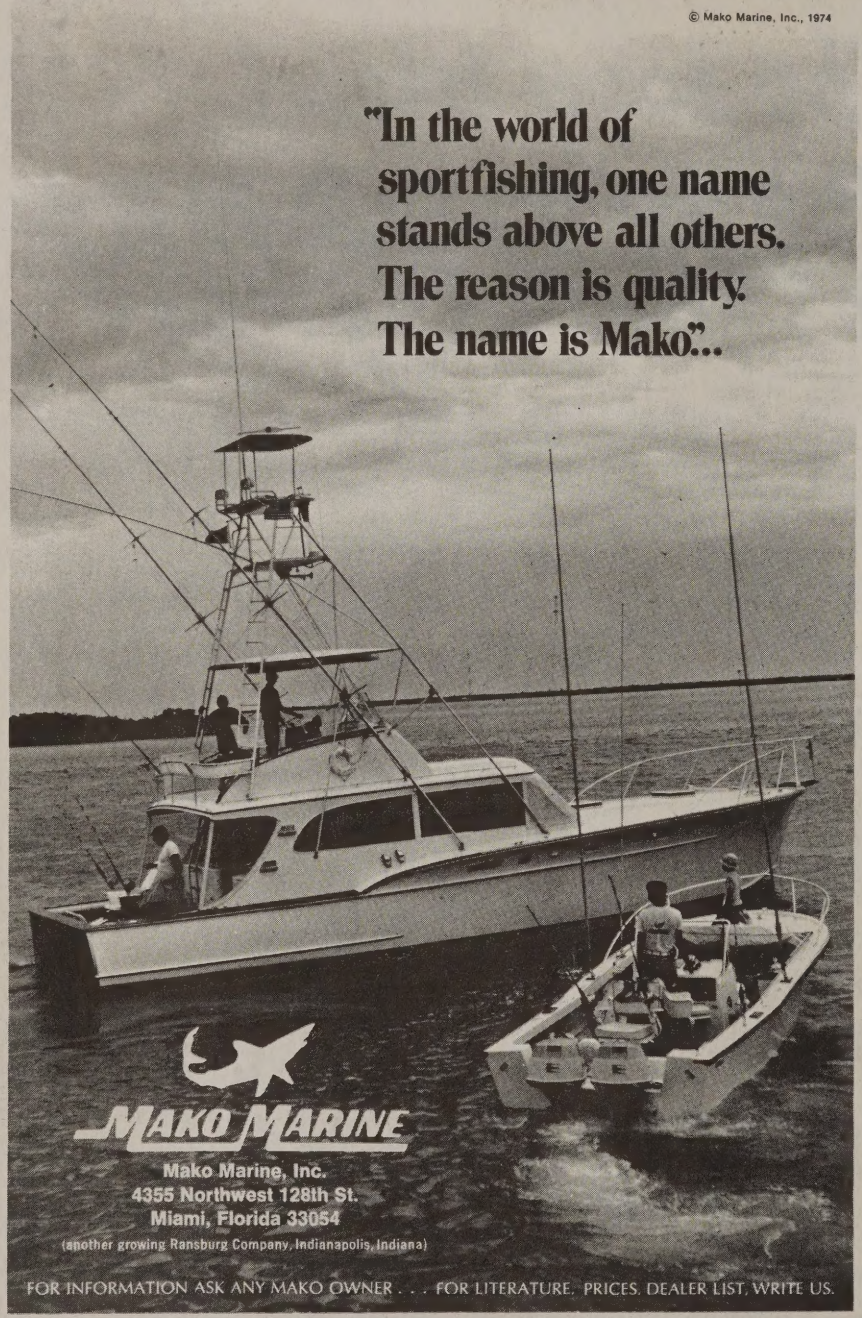
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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 9, No. 9 March 14th, 1974

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ABOUT THE COVER: The open boats are sailing again, loading up on flounder in what looks like another great fishing season for Long Islanders.

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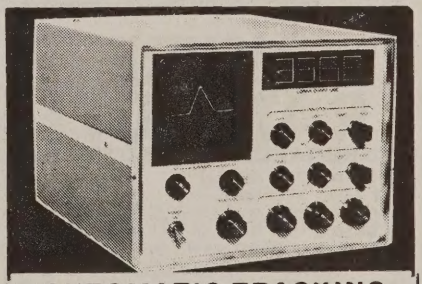

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Chum Lines

BUNKER

Enclosed please find my last letter from Robert Cook. I finally got him to state SOME position.

He seems to agree with Senator Pisani's bill.

I thought your readers might be interested. Yours in sports, Martin Mc Mahon, Carmel, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Mc Mahon:

This will acknowledge your recent letter with further reference to the commercial netting of menhaden in Long Island Sound.

We recognize that there is need for the regulation of the harvest of menhaden in New York waters and are working on proposals which we feel would accomplish that purpose.

These proposals include the use of a closure line based on the navigation buoys similar to that proposed by Senator Pisani.

In addition to the restricted fishing areas along the coast of the Sound, we are proposing to develop additional fishing zones in the western Sound in which the number of boats operating at any one time will be limited.

We believe these two measures will provide control of the fishery and will prevent its being over-utilized by the commercial interests.

We understand your concern and assure you that we are not unmindful of the problems associated with this industry.

Very truly yours,
R. A. Cook
Regional Director

Ed note: It is our opinion that our Department of Environmental Conservation made an extremely weak stand on behalf of N.Y.S. residents, fishermen and bunker at the recent Bunker Meeting held at White Plains. The staff of The Fisherman was quite disappointed. Hopefully, Mr. Cook's letter indicates a realization on ENCON'S part that the citizens of New York State will neither be bamboozeled by the lack of supportive substance by Al Jensen (Encon representative at the Bunker Meeting) or the outrageous decimation of Long Island Sound's bunker population by the same commercial operators that were responsible for the total collapse of the Peruvian anchovy fishery some years ago. Incidently, this fishery was just opened—for limited harvest.

MORE TO BE HEARD IN SLUDGE

Enclosed are two items from the New York Times and Daily News concerning the sludge dumping in the New York Bight area. Having been aware of this problem for a number of years, it is heartening to see it getting some attention.

As reported in the items the concern is primarily directed towards our shorelines, but anyone who has run from Jones Inlet to the Mud Hole while they were dumping, or has tried to find such famous fishing grounds as the Subway Rocks, should share the outrage. Foreign fleets laying 12 miles offshore are picking clean such species as cod which could have moved further inshore, as in the past, except for this foul artificial barrier. Though to some the problem might seem local, what must be realized is that if the N.Y. Bight can supply recreation to more fishermen per square inch than anywhere else on earth, and can attract fishing fleets from halfway around the world, its demise must produce grave consequences for the entire east coast fishery.

It seems to me that government and industry portray the ecologist as an intellectual quack, and the sportsman as having an all-consuming self-interest. If they could be made to realize the economic consequences of their lack of concern perhaps more would be done. Multiplying the cost of my pastime by the number of fishermen in this area, an alternative solution (bigger barges towed 200 miles out?) could be paid for by our sales tax. S.O.S. could, for example, build an econometric model that would show that the striper fishermen's contribution to the economy could build 50 cooling towers. Also, they should realize the social implications resulting from all us fishing lunatics without an outlet.

The Federal E.P.A. states that the

(Continued on page 31.)

News Releases

We have recently received a number of dated news releases which could not appear in the pages of The Fisherman because they arrived here too late for entry. Please allow us a minimum of two (2) full weeks for an item to be scheduled for these pages.

FISHING CLINICS

The Garcia Corporation and Herman's Sporting Goods will sponsor a Fishing Clinic on Tuesday, March 19 and Tuesday, March 26 to be held from 8-10 P.M. at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 25 Building, 41 Pinelawn Road, Melville, New York. The clinics are run as a public service on first-come, first serve basis to the first 1,000 persons registering for each session at any Herman's store on Long Island.

The main topic for the March 19th clinic is Saltwater Fishing. Surfcasting, Jetty Fishing, Charter Boat Fishing and Small Boat Trolling will be covered. The main species of fish covered will be striped bass, bluefish and weakfish.

The topics for the March 26th session will be Freshwater Fishing. Main species to be discussed are trout, large-and smallmouth bass and other popular species. Additionally there will be an in-depth slide presentation on the use of electronic fishfinders for use in all types of freshwater fishing.

Every session will have a slide presentation, a half hour movie plus door prizes, free literature and a full display of 1974 Garcia tackle. A free Garcia Shrimp Bait Tail lure will be given to everyone attending the Saltwater session and a Garcia Sierra Spoon lure to everyone attending the Freshwater session.

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat "KIM" will be conducting the saltwater session on March 19th, along with Peter Barrett, editor of The New Jersey Fisherman Magazine.

The Freshwater/Electronic Fishfinder session on March 26th will be presented by Don Vetter, outdoor writer for The Long Island Fisherman magazine and Jerry Gomber, Editor of The Connecticut-Rhode Island Fisherman magazine.

SAVE OUR STRIPERS ANNUAL MEETING

Striper fishermen and club members be sure to make SOS' annual meeting and elections, 8:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 19th at American Legion Post #1066, 66 Brooklyn Ave., Massapequa (one block east of Broadway, opposite Massapequa R.R. STATION.(

Special Program - Open To Public

Dr. Herbert M. Austin, New York Ocean Sciences Laboratory will speak about "Striped Bass"—Tackle Making Demonstration—Salt Water Film—President's report on striper legislation and nuclear power plant litigation—Raffle and free refreshments.

While you're at it, join SOS now or sign up at the meeting, so that you can be kept informed about striped bass legislation and the fight against the power plants that would destroy our fishery.

Membership is $5.00 per year. Make check or money order payable to Save Our Stripers, Inc. and mail to Membership (34), SOS, Box 116, Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762.

SLUDGE

In view of the possibility of dangerous sludge material being washed upon Long Island beaches and into it's wetlands, the Save Our Bays Association Of Long Island has asked for monthly surveillance of the dead sea mass and an analysis of all foreign matter found within five miles of the coastline, with a complete report to the public monthly on the findings, to be conducted by federal, state and local agencies.

The well-being of the citizens of greater Long Island must be considered now since there are no plans at present to

(Continued on page 15.)

The Long Island FISHERMAN

CAR POOL
Reader Service

Due to the fuel crisis, *The Long Island Fisherman* is instituting a Car Pool Service so our readers may get together and save on gas. If you need a ride, or are looking for other fishermen to share your car expenses, fill in the information below and send it to *The L.I. Fisherman.* They will be printed weekly so that other anglers may get in touch with you direct.

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CAR WANTED: Lives in Northport, needs ride on Sundays to anywhere on L.I. Call Peter Wight at (516) 757-8975.

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Tying Your Own Basic Bottom Rigs

by Scott Simons

Part V: SINKERS

The sinker is the "root" of the basic bottom rig—use the wrong style or size and you kill the "tree," in this case the effectiveness of the rig. The primary purpose of the sinker is to carry the rig and bait to the bottom where the fish are. This sounds simple, yet there is much more involved than meets the eye. The sinker must be both the correct weight and style for each situation. If your sinker is too heavy, your bait will lie stationary in one spot and the fish are forced to find you. The bait may be hidden in weeds or rocks, and make finding it quite difficult for the fish. Excess weight may also hinder the angler's ability to feel a biting fish.

Sinkers that are too light are also a problem. The current will keep pulling the sinker off the bottom, causing the bait to pass over the heads of feeding fish. Ideally, a sinker should be just heavy enough to reach and hold bottom, or roll along bottom with the current to find the feeding area of the fish. By covering a large area with your rig bouncing along the bottom, your chances of locating and catching fish are greatly improved.

Different bottom conditions, tides, currents and fishing methods require different types of sinkers. Over the years, through trial and error, five basic sinker designs have evolved for saltwater fishing: pyramid, bank, diamond, ball and egg sinkers.

The **pyramid sinker** has been the favorite of sandy-bottom fishermen for many years. The ideal pyramid shape, from which it gets its name, digs into the sand and holds against strong currents. Pyramid sinkers are available in sizes ranging from the small ½-oz. size to the larger 8-ounce size.

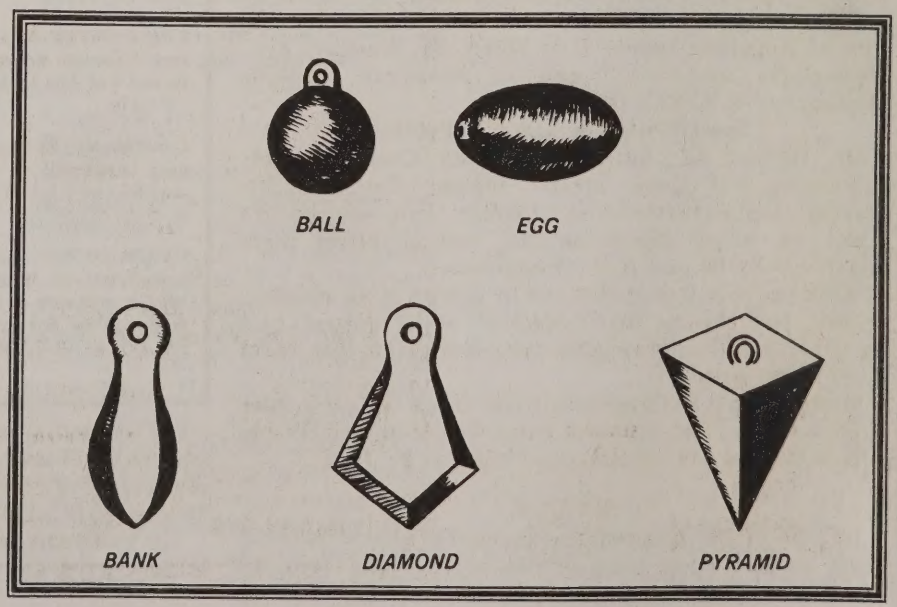
The **bank sinker** is the most popular and commonly-used sinker by salt water fishermen on Long Island. It is an excellent, all-around sinker for bottom fishing and may be used for both bay and deep sea fishing. The smooth, symetrical shape of the bank sinker makes it an excellent sinker for casting and holding bottom under normal fishing conditions. Bank sinkers range in size from ½ ounce to more than a pound.

The **diamond sinker** is used primarily for deep-sea bottom fishing. It is preferred by many cod and pollack fishermen who often fish wrecks and ledges in deep water where the currents run strong and large sinkers are required to hold bottom. Available in sizes ranging from eight ounces to more than a pound.

The **ball sinker** is a favorite among the anglers who specialize in black-fishing over rocky bottoms. The round shape of this sinker keeps it from snagging on rough bottom as frequently as the other sinker types will. Most tackle shops carry these sinkers in weights of 2 to 5 ounces.

The **egg sinker** derives its name from its egg-like shape, and increases in popularity with each passing season. Long the favorite of southern fishermen, the egg sinker is an elongated cylinder with a hole through the center for the line to pass through freely. Used on the sliding sinker rig, an egg sinker allows the angler a direct contact with softly nibbling fish. It doesn't foul easily, so it is used primarily while drifting over rocky and rough bottoms in the bays and inlets.

Sinkers may be purchased at any bait and tackle shop for 4 or 5 cents an ounce. If you want to make your own sinkers, many tackle shops sell sinker molds. All you need is a ladle and some scrap lead and you're in business. You won't save much money if you don't have a cheap supply of lead, but you



can get together with a couple of your fishing buddies and have a real fishing bull-session while you mold enough sinkers for the coming season.

For some reason, when you get hung up on the bottom it is often the sinker, not the hooks, that is snagged. With this in mind, you can save many lost rigs by tying the sinker to your leader with a lighter test line; when you do get snagged you'll lose only your sinker. Then, rather than re-rerigging entirely, all you have to do is tie a new sinker on to your rig.

Storing sinkers can be a problem. If you fill your tackle box with them you'll walk lopsided all day, and the handles will eventually break or pull off from the excess weight. Your best bet is to transport the sinkers you think you'll need for a fishing trip separately. You can carry them in a small tackle box, a cloth pouch, or make a simple stringer for them to hang on your belt when walking. Simply take a coat hanger, fashion a large safety pin from it, and slipe on the sinkers. Don't forget to close the "safety."

When you initially make your own bottom rigs, don't put a sinker on; you don't know what size you will need. After you have tied a number of rigs, put them in envelopes, one rig per envelope. Label each envelope with the type of rig it holds and file it away. When you prepare for a trip, take only those you will need and put them in your tackle box. This will save you much valuable fishing time if you happen to lose your rig when the fishing is hot and heavy. If you lose a rig just grab an envelope, rip it open with your teeth, tie the rig on and you're in business. This is when the spare time spent tying rigs in the off-season pays off...with better results when the fishing is in full swing.

One of the most important aspects of fishing is the selection of the proper rig for a particular species of fish and the method employed in using it. A wrong or improperly tied rig will usually result in the angler catching few, if any, fish—while a prepared angler can fish right next to him with the proper rig and pull in fish after fish. By tying your own rigs as described in this series of articles, you will learn why rigs work the way they do and increase your catches this coming season.

Next week I will conclude this series by advising you as to several types of commonly-used bottom rigs and under what conditions they should be used.

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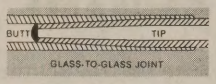

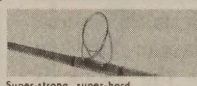
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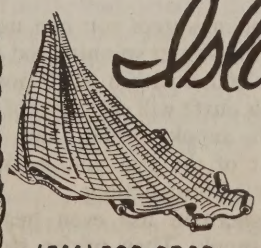

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Fooling Snook

by Vlad Evanoff

One of my favorite fish in southern waters, especially Florida, is the snook. I like to fish for striped bass in northern waters, and I find that the snook is about their closest counterpart. Snook have habits very similar to those of striped bass, and they are highly selective most of the time.

Like the striped bass, they are unpredictable and temperamental. When conditions are right, they'll feed and hit lures and baits. But when they go on a hunger strike they'll drive you nuts trying to fool them with a bait or lure. So, like the striped bass, they are not an easy fish to catch. They offer a challenge which many Florida anglers and visitors can't resist; many of them become snook "specialists" who fish only for these fish, spending many hours haunting the spots where snook are present or apt to show.

Although there are four species of snook found in Florida waters, the one which reaches a decent size is the common snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*). It is found along both coasts of Florida, in the Gulf of Mexico and throughout the Caribbean. In Florida the best fishing is found in the lower half of the state, and among the best areas for snook are the Ten Thousand Islands or mangrove country in the Everglades.

The Florida Keys also have snook, especially around the bridges and mangrove islands. On the West Coast of Florida most of the islands, bays, rivers, beaches and inlets from Naples north to Tampa can be fished for snook. Along the East Coast of Florida the inlets, rivers, bays and beaches from Miami to Fort Pierce see runs of these fish. The Stuart area is especially noted for its fine snook fishing.

Like striped bass, snook are very versatile and adaptable fish and can be found in varied habitats. They occur in rivers and even go up into brackish and fresh-water. Snook especially like inlets and river mouths with strong tides and currents, where they lurk around oyster and rock bars, bridges and points waiting for shrimp, mullet, crabs or other food to come by.

In the Ten Thousand Islands they like to hide and lie under the mangrove roots or around points of islands; at low tide they drop back into the deeper holes and channels. They also like to lie along the edges of sand, rock or oyster bars, and, at times, they can be spotted chasing small baitfish on top. In canals you can see them cruising slowly along the surface, creating a "V" wake as they look for baitfish.

Snook are especially plentiful in the mangrove country of the Florida Everglades, and in tidal rivers. (Photo by Florida State News Bureau.)

Snook fishermen who do a lot of casting under mangrove trees, and in the roots of these trees that grow in the water, prefer a rather stiff bait-casting rod and reel filled with 15 to 25 pound test line. Such an outfit is good for the accurate casting required in such spots, and has more backbone when you have to hold or turn a snook away from the tree roots which they invariably head for.

In more open waters you can use a one-handed salt-water spinning rod and spinning reel filled with 8 or 10 pound test line. This outfit will cast most of the lures which snook prefer and can handle most of the fish you hook in waters clear of obstructions.

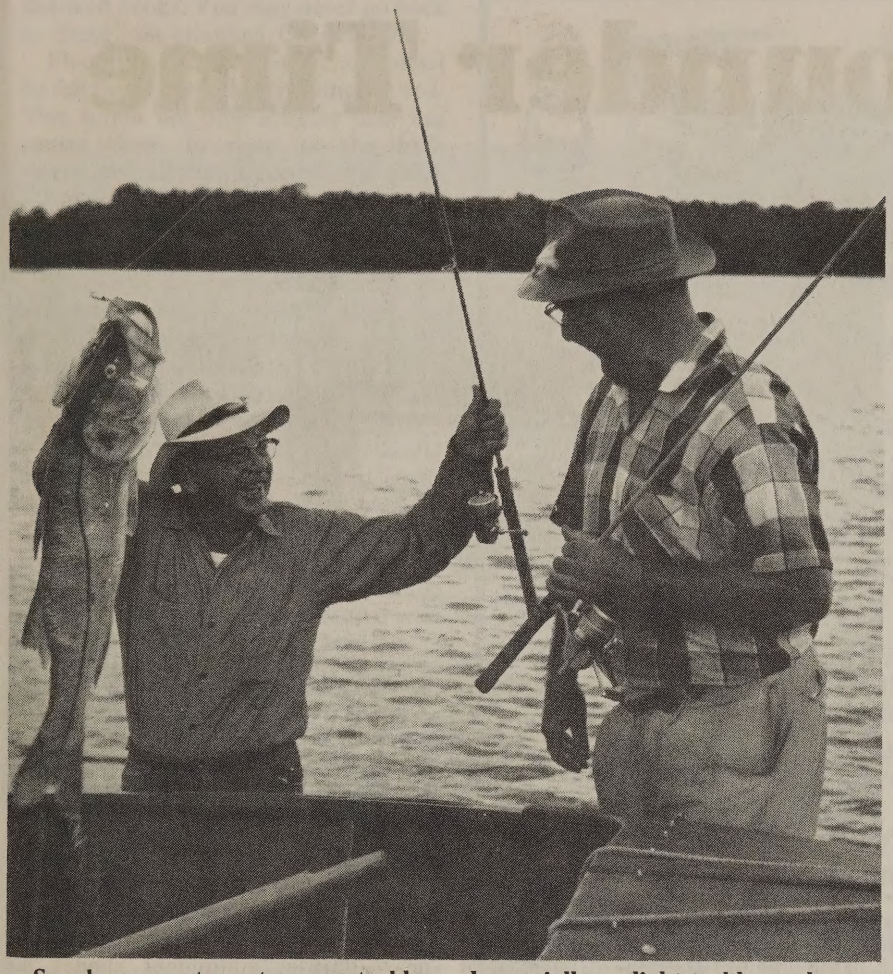
Bridge fishermen use even heavier outfits for snook. They prefer strong conventional rods and conventional reels filled with lines testing from 30 to 50 pounds. They often hook big snook from the bridges and have to keep them away from the piles or concrete supports during the fight.

Snook will hit surface plugs such as poppers, torpedo shapes and wounded minnow types. Darters are also good because they can be worked on the surface or reeled fast to make them travel just below the surface.

The smaller, fresh-water bass-type plugs are better than the big jobs usually used for stripers, but they should have strong hooks and fittings. Those weighing from one half to one ounce and 4 or 5 inches long are best. Underwater plugs are also good, especially the Mirro-lures and natural minnow types.

Jigs and bucktails are also effective snook lures and here, again, the smaller, lighter, yellow or white jigs weighing one-quarter to a half-ounce are best. Adding half of a natural shrimp to the hook is often more effective than the plain jig.

Whichever outfit or lures you use, be certain you have a short wire leader or heavy 40 or 50 pound test mono trace next to the lure. Snook have a sharp plate on their gill cover which can cut a line or your hand, so don't try to grab



Snook are grest sport on any tackle, and especially on light tackle, such as this 14-pounder was caught on. (Photo by Florida State News Bureau.)

them under the gills like you do with most fish.

Snook like a lot of action in their lures and, when working surface plugs, make them kick up a fuss and commotion. With some plugs which can be pulled under the surface you'll get more hits when the plug is traveling a few inches below.

When using jigs try different levels from a foot or two down to the bottom. When reeling along the bottom, bounce the jig every so often and work it slowly. Half a shrimp on the hook helps to get more strikes.

Trolling slowly so that lures such as spoons, jigs or underwater plugs travel down deep is a good way to get snook when they are in channels and deep holes during low tide.

Bridge anglers usually fish at night, and they do best on bridges which have strong tides and plenty of shrimp, mullet or crabs drifting through. Here you should cast your lures on the uptide side of the bridge at an angle, retrieving your lure as the tide sweeps it toward the bridge. If there are shadows on that side of the bridge your chances of getting a snook are good—if they are lying in this dark area.

There are times when live baits are best; then a mullet or pinfish or shrimp drifted under a bridge, or fished deep with a sinker near the bottom, is the most productive method.

When fishing along the beaches in the surf you can often see snook cruising along singly, in pairs or in small schools if the water is clear and not too rough. At these times, cast your lure well in front of them and reel it in so that they see it. When the surf is rough you can often see snook chasing mullet or other baits. Cast into this commotion.

You'll find snook fishing is best during the new and full moon — when tides are strong—and on rainy, windy, overcast or stormy days. The peak fishing periods usually occur early in the morning, toward dusk and during the night.

Sounds more and more like striped bass fishing, doesn't it? Well, if you like to fish for stripers, you'll like fishing for snook, too!

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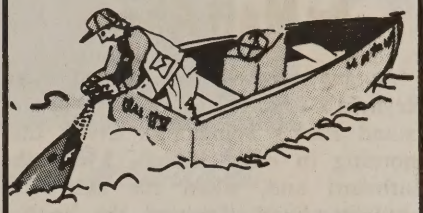

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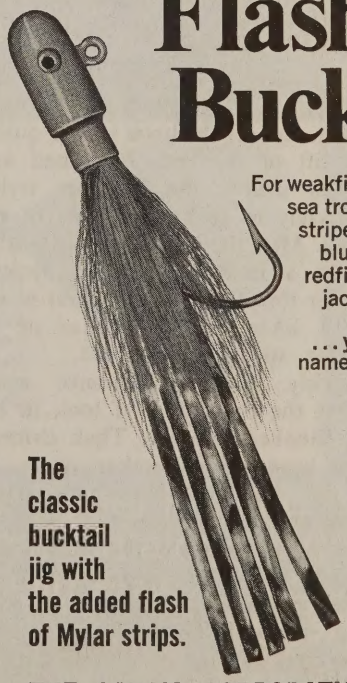

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It's Flounder Time

by Matt Ahern

As my rented skiff turned from Reynold's Channel into the mouth of Island Park's Schaeffer's Creek that morning in early March, I cut the outboard and, when the skiff lost headway, gently lowered the anchor over a piece of bottom productive in early spring flounder fishing. The skiff settled as I hurriedly opened a jar of previously shucked mussels. Chilled fingers threaded one on each of the two flounder hooks.

I lowered the rig and mentally congratulated my fortunate selection of this beautiful, bright, windless morning. Since mid-December, when I had reluctantly put away rod and reel to await this particular day, I had fumed and fretted over a much too long winter. Now all that was behind me and I wondered if my luck would continue to hold.

As I awaited the answer, I crushed several whole mussels under foot and dribbled them piecemeal overside. A half hour passed, with no takers. I reeled in, rebaited with fresher mussel, and again I waited. Finally, in my desire to find faster action, I was about ready to commit the cardinal sin of many fishermen: impatience.

I had decided to move further into the creek when I felt the familiar, gentle tugging, and set the hook with a quick, short lift of the rod. It arched and bounced wildly, the flounder trying desperately to seek the safety of the bottom. After the short, spirited battle, I lifted a mud-streaked one pound flounder into the skiff. My first of the year! I knew then, calendar or no calendar, spring had arrived.

Quickly rebaiting, I once again lowered the rig and, as I took in the slack, hooked another. Then came a double-header and another single. As the tide reached low-water slack, fishing moved gradually to a halt.

Taking advantage of the lull I hoped would be temporary, I stomped more mussels and threw them overboard, had a quick sandwich, some Thermos coffee, and warmed my chilled fingers: less than a half hour later I had more flounders coming. For some unknown reason, however, the fish seemed interested only in a moving bait. Changing my tactics, I commenced to bottom bounce the sinker and once more was into fish.

Fishing from rented skiffs is an easy way to get spring flounders.

This type of fishing went on most of the morning and when quitting time arrived, thirty flounders from one half to one pound apiece were in the bucket. I had returned as many smaller ones.

Those I kept were thin, as are all early run flounders. They had been hungry and catching them was not much of a problem. The long-awaited trip had been successful, and I was happy knowing that, as the season progressed, more and larger flounders would reward my efforts.

A friend once remarked that since so many people fish for flounders they must be the most popular fish in local waters. True enough. From early March to middle May, and from October into December, thousands of fishermen ply their efforts on Long Island waters, searching for this gourmet's delight. Their activities are well rewarded, as many thousands of these scrappy flatfish are taken each year. In fact, if a fisherman is skilled, it is sometimes hard not to catch flounders. However, while the flounder is a willing biter, he isn't a "push-over"; certain knowledge must be acquired and intelligently put into practice.

Unless you try for flounders out Montauk way, most of them caught locally will average about a pound. Being so, there is no point in using heavy tackle; equipment should be scaled down to the lightest possible to insure maximum sport. An ideal flounder rig is a medium fresh-water outfit equipped with a light, salt-water reel. Most flounders are caught in sheltered waters, therefore six to eight pound test monofilament with a two ounce sinker will suffice.

General literature on terminal tackle requirements for flounder fishing usually recommends the use of number nine or ten Chestertown hooks. These are good, of course, as their long shank enables the fisherman to remove a deeply embedded hook without too much trouble. However, my own experience over the years has been to use the shorter shanked, number six Sproat or beak type hook.

This light, but strong hook seems to take the larger, more suspicious fish. An advantage too, is the ease with which it can be hidden in the bait. Should it be taken deeply, it isn't difficult to remove if the fish is grasped in one hand and the snell pulled firmly with the other. But don't give up your Chestertown hooks on my say-so; what works for me may not necessarily work for you. However, should the opportunity arise, try a couple of the shorter

shanked hooks. You may never go back to those long-shanked Chestertowns.

Flounders bite delicately, and must be felt for by periodically lifting the rod. This action not only attracts fish, but causes them to snap at the bait, whereupon all that is needed is a quick lift of the rod to jaw-hook the fish. If this rod lifting is done more often, there will be fewer deeply hooked fish.

Flounders are not predatory; they do not chase bait as do fluke, weaks, or blues. They are strictly a bottom feeding fish, seldom rising more than a few inches for food, consequently your bait must be there too.

To assure this, your two hooks should be tied tandem-style. This is easily accomplished by bending the snell of one hook at the middle, and passing this fold through the loop of the second. The second hook is then passed through the fold, pulled tightly and secured with an overhand knot. It isn't necessary to tie this directly above the sinker as most information suggests. Tie a 2/0 to 4/0 snap swivel with an Improved Clinch knot and place hooks and sinker together. Works fine.

Fortunately for the fisherman, flounders willingly take a variety of baits. Two of the favorites, of course, are the blood and/or the sandworm. They deserve their popularity, but there are times when other baits will do a much better job. Soft, hard, and skimmer clams have taken many flounders, especially during the fall and winter, but when early spring flounder fishing rolls around the lowly bank mussel reigns supreme. Whether used in a chum pot, on the hook, or scattered about the boat as in Schaeffer's Creek, nothing beats the mussel.

Recently, much has been written, pro and con, on the subject of canned corn as flounder chum: there is no doubt it produces very satisfactory results. However, until more factual information is available on possible damage to the delicate intestinal tract of the flounder, mussel is probably the safest chum to use.

Flounders, having small mouths, can only take small baits. But any decent-sized flounder is well able to swallow an offering up to one and a half inches. If clams are used, just be sure to cut them into narrow, thin strips. In fact, the longer bait seems more attractive, especially if the end is left to trail from the hook.

The veteran flounder fisherman has many tricks in his tackle bag. If one method doesn't produce, he will fall

(Continued on page 23.)

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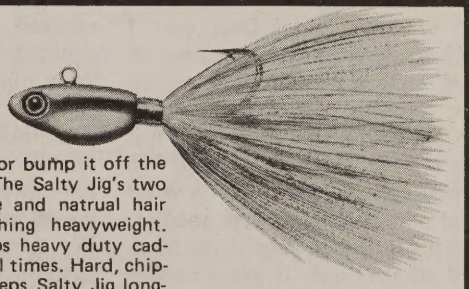

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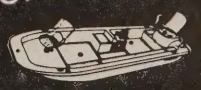

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Roccus Wonderland

by Al Daniels

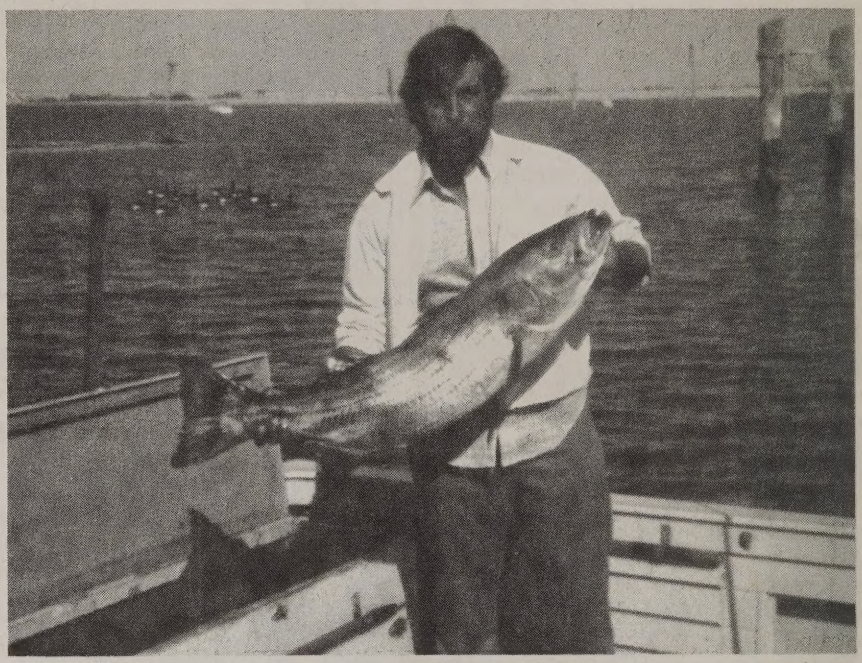
Roccus saxatilis is the deposed linnaean term for striped bass. Like many other bass fishermen, the author prefers this to the scientifically accurate name of Morone saxatilis.

Tuesday, September 4, 1973 finds it a hot humid day on eastern Long Island. As far as fishing goes it is just so-so. You find that bluefish are the most abundant species at present. The words "striped bass" are a memory from the spring run or a dream waiting for the fall run to begin. But by taking a mere three hour drive you can fish in some of the most productive bass waters on the eastern seaboard. Before I go any further, many dedicated fishermen already know where this is.

Yes, this is the island of Cuttyhunk, where striped bass fishing has been in existence for many years. Also, the famous Cuttyhunk Fishing Club was founded here. The island is the most southwestern one of a chain that extends from Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Of course this area has its most productive times, but for the most part bass are available from June through November. Cuttyhunk not only rates first in fishing, but also in beauty and tranquility. So don't forget the family if you plan to make the trip.

Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. found us, Don Siano and myself, in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Don and I had spent many hours in conquest of *Roccus*. We had a short wait of maybe thirty-five minutes before our captain arrived by boat from the island. He was dropping off the party before us. We were happy to see they had a good catch, and now our hopes were soaring. After stowing our gear aboard the boat, we shoved off at 11 a.m. It was a beautiful morning with a little haze that soon burned off. With a gentle sea, we made the fourteen mile trip in about thirty minutes.

We were awed by the island's beauty. Our captain directed us to our accommodations which had been made long in advance. Here you need not worry about traffic or taxi cabs. The few cars that are on the island have come here to die. With a winter population of forty, shoes seem to be the mode of transportation. The guest house is located about a quarter of a mile from the dock and is run by some of the most hospitable people I have ever met. In my opinion the rooms rate an "excellent," and—all your meals are included. As for the food, it is some of the best home cooking that I have had the pleasure to enjoy.



The author with one of the larger fish of the trip.

At four p.m. on the day of our arrival we were down at the dock ready to go fishing. The captain supplies all of the tackle and will direct you in whatever method you desire to use. We had decided to troll in the rips, using swimming plugs and bucktails. The water is very treacherous and isn't recommended unless you are a native. Of course, most of us know that striped bass love this rocky habitat. Here they lay in wait for unsuspecting baitfish. We fished only on the outgoing tide both during the night and day. Because we were there for two days, we went fishing four times, about four hours duration each trip.

When leaving the dock it is a must to don oil slickers. It is a lovely and scenic ride from the harbor to the famed Sow and Pigs, but the bottom contour is really what attracts the fish. Here deep water surrounds the rocky ledge. On top of the ledge some of the rocks are visible at low tide.

We both were using bucktails at the start. We worked them in a jigging motion which is familiar to most areas. The outgoing tide here is quite strong, and we just kind of sat on it and fanned back and forth. After about two hours, neither we nor the three other boats working the area had produced a fish. It seemed as if it was going to be a disappointing evening fish-wise.

Just as these thoughts seem to be the answer, a small school of bass surfaced near the boat. These fish looked to be in the twenty to thirty pound class. So, with our hopes revitalized, we jigged even harder, only to discover these fish didn't seem to be hungry. We were back at the dock by eight-thirty.

We had taken seven fish with the largest bass weighing in around fourteen pounds. We also had missed dinner, but found it waiting for us on our return. With our stomachs full, and a shower, it was time to turn in for just a few hours sleep: we were up at three a.m. Later, a mere twelve hours from our trip's start, found us back at the Sow and Pigs, and we fished until daybreak with no luck. At five thirty a.m., a thick fog rolled in. The visibility was cut to ten feet as we proceeded to work our way back toward the harbor. We were traveling close to the beach and had to be on constant lookout for rocks and those ever-present lobster pot buoys.

After a wholesome breakfast it is time for picture taking or to catch up on

(Continued on page 27.)

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Annual Meeting March 19th

Striper Fishermen & Club Members

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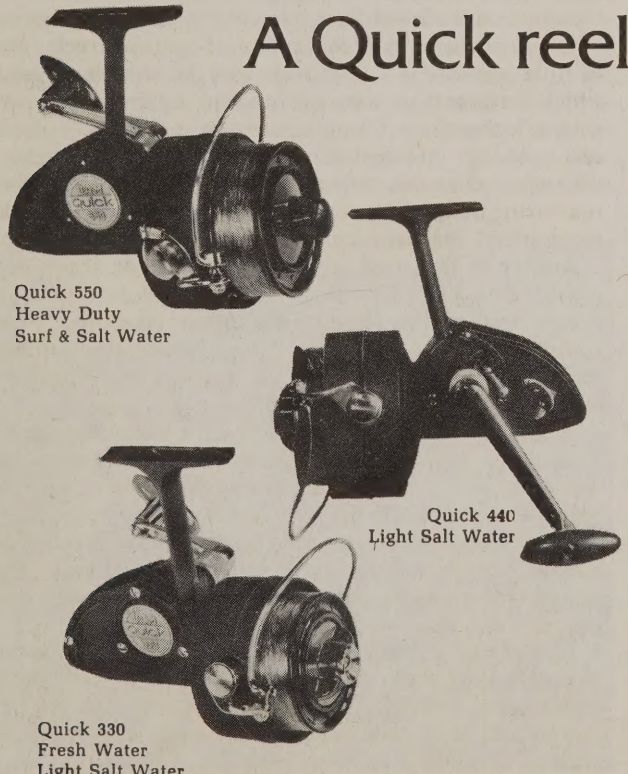

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In Defense of Ultra-Light

by Don Vetter

Aside from helping to maintain my reputation as the world's worst living photographer, many of the snapshots that have graced this column have provoked reader interest in regard to the miniature spinning outfit usually featured, with the accompaniment of a few finny creatures of one sort or another.

Having in my possession nine different fresh water spinning outfits, the question which arises is why I so often find myself using this dinky rig throughout the season for such a wide variety of fish. Though my preference for fly casting as the premier method for taking freshwater gamesters must be, by now, a well known fact, whenever I choose to employ fixed spool tackle, the ultra-light is invariably the outfit I reach for.

To a majority of anglers, particularly those who are primarily bass oriented, ultra-light spinning is strictly for panfish or very small trout; any other use would be classified as "stunt" fishing and, as such, not to be taken seriously. Before attempting to lock horns with those who take this rather dim view of the mini-outfits, I had better define precisely what to my mind constitutes an ultra-light spinning outfit.

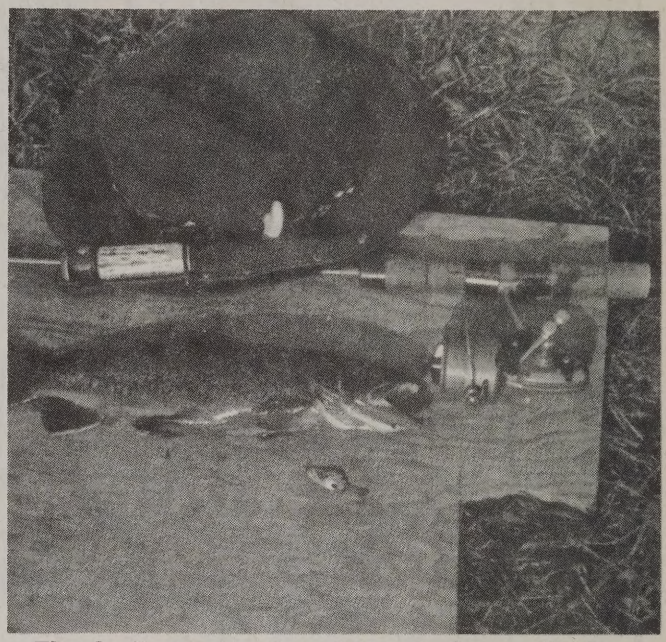
The heart of my pet rig is a 5 foot Garcia/Conolon rod which performs nicely with bait or lures in the 1/16 ounce range. Though the abreviated rod is the most obvious feature to the eye, particularly when I tote it, being 6 feet 3 inches tall, length alone is a poor criteria for judging any rod. There are some manufacturers (who shall remain nameless) whose promotional literature boasts rods in the 5-foot class capable of tossing lures of a half ounce or more in weight; I would not even call such a little monster "light," much less ultra-light. Obviously, "short" and "light" are far from synonomous in the rod making lexicon.

The true ultra-light spin stick should have a **parabolic** action, i.e., the entire rod will flex during a cast—right down through the corks, rather than the so-called "fast tip" action which enjoyed a brief vogue with many rod makers, but which is now mercifully fading from the scene. It will (or should) be capable of casting lures/baits as light as 1/32 of an ounce and no heavier than 1/8 of an ounce without overloading.

Sliding rings which were once standard on all spinning rods serve to hold the reel, rather than a screw-locking seat which would add too much to the weight. Guides and tip top MUST be carboloy, as the light-test, fine diameter monofilaments used tend to wear grooves in the hardware much more rapidly than do heavier lines.

Small size, light weight and smoothness of operation are the things to look for in a good u/l reel. There are several makes which fulfill these requirements, among them the Garcia 308 and 408 Mitchells, and the Alcedo Micron. My personal choice has fallen to the smallest Compac, which has proven itself incredibly durable for an inexpensive reel over the past five years.

Since the line test is so low, the operation of the reel's drag is a critical factor in ultra-light spinning. If the reel of your choice is not already so equipped, the addition of a teflon



The deadly combination of Vetter's famous "pickerel hat" and u/l gear proved to be the undoing of this brown trout.

washer between the spool and its mounting point can contribute wonderfully to drag smoothness.

The drag ratchet, usually a small spring-steel prong on the base of the spool which engages with a fixed toothed gear mounted on the spool-stud, can contribute to a certain degree of drag uneveness in even the best of spinning reels. Though of little account in larger reels with heavier lines, anything which detracts from a smoothly operating drag can be crucial with u/l; therefore, I long ago removed the ratchet from my reel. Many hidebound anglers would probably be disconcerted by this "silent" drag of mine, yearning for that reassuring buzz when a fish takes off on a run, so I would not recommend the practice to the general fishing public.

Insofar as line goes, almost any reputable make of limp monofilament will serve if it is of the proper test. One to four pound test is the range most often employed with u/l spinning tackle, with a two or three pound line suitable for most uses. Two pound mono is my personal choice for its castability with the lightest of baits and lures.

If these lines seem dangerously light to those anglers who have never used anything less substantial than six pound mono, try this test: affix the end of your line to some heavy object and attempt to lift it off the floor with your rod. With the drag properly set, you will find it impossible to break the line, and additional tightening of the drag will stress the rod to near the breaking point before the line will part—with a properly balanced outfit.

Line should be packed on the reel as close to the spool rim as practical without overfilling, to decrease friction and allow longer casts. The light line has less longevity than the heavier monos and may need replacement once or more during a season, depending on how often you fish.

Now to answer those critics of u/l, I would remind them that water conditions are often more of a factor than fish size

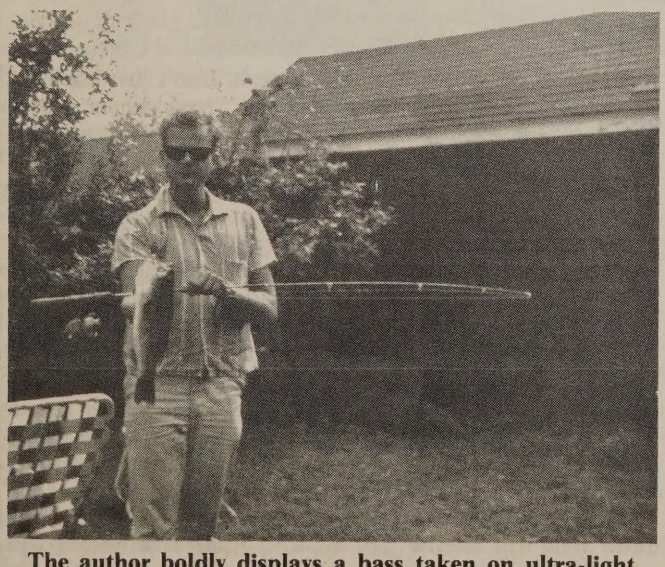
in determining whether said fish will wind up on your stringer or regain his freedom. It would be foolish indeed to employ such light tackle in snag-infested water, however small the fish liable to be encountered. On the other hand, you may tackle some pretty large gamefish on u/l in open, obstruction-free waters.

Having disposed of one argument, there remains the question: "why use ultra light?" The old saw about getting the maximum amount of sport from any fish you hook holds true, but there are still more impelling reasons for employing the light wand.

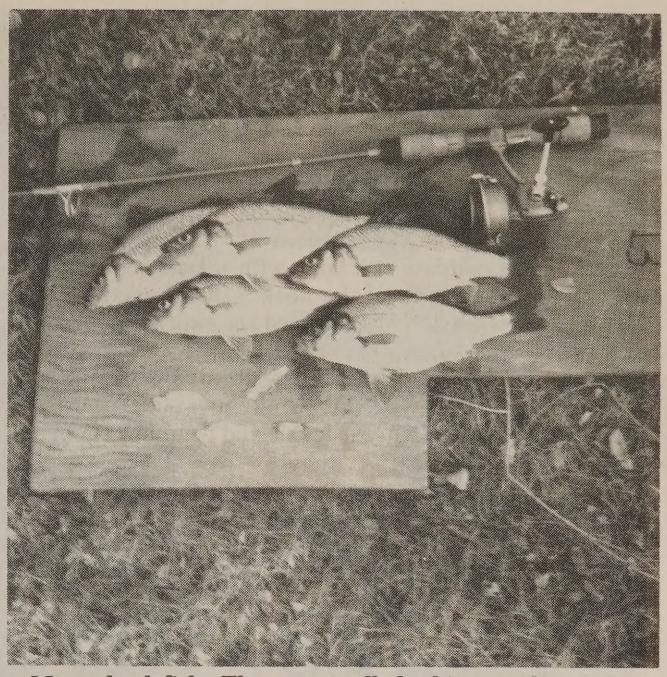
On the heavily fished waters of Long Island, any fish which survives to a decent size is hardly likely to be a dummy, but rather "educated" to the extent of having been exposed to the wiles of many anglers. The smaller baits and lures u/l allows, not to mention the delicacy of presentation, are often the undoing of these jaded, sagacious fish. For practicality and versatility, u/l is hard to beat when used with reasonable precautions.

What size and species of fish is it practical to seek with ultra-light, and under what water conditions? Panfish—all sizes except where the densest growths of water weeds are present. Trout—up to 12 inches under any water conditions, to almost any size in open, unobstructed waters. Bass—up to the three pound class in unobstructed water, unsuitable for any but the smallest of bass in water where snags are present to any extent. This enjoinder on the use of u/l for bass is based largely on the fish's superior fighting ability and tendency to seek out cover when hooked, but also due to the fact that it usually takes more backbone than the little rods possess to drive the hook home in the tough mouth of a decent sized bass.

Surprisingly large fish can be landed on u/l, even under adverse water conditions, provided your tackle is in top shape and you don't blow your cool. Heavy fish must be pumped with the rod in the same manner as salt water big game. Never attempt to reel when the fish is running and taking line through the drag; besides accomplishing nothing in the way of bringing the fish in, this practice may also result in severe line twist. Let him run himself out, then pump and reel. If the fish is heading for some obstruction, drag pressure may be increased by application of the forefinger to the spool rim, rather than by tightening the knob which results in lost fish more often than not.



The author boldly displays a bass taken on ultra-light tackle.



More dead fish. These are called white perch.

Bear in mind that the rather unequivocal endorsement of ultra-light that the foregoing represents applies to ultra-light spinning only. Though the ultra light fly rod or "flea" rod, as it is more often termed, has its partisans, Field & Stream's Al J. McClane among them, I have never been comfortable fly casting with any rod under seven feet in length. The little sticks are often powerful enough to propel a 6 weight fly line, and come in a variety of actions, but they lack the leverage of the longer wands and require a great deal more coordination to cast well with.

Due to their tendency to produce a low back cast, these short fly rods can be down-right dangerous to an inexperienced angler, and to those who are unfortunate enough to be standing near him; removing the hook of a #14 Sparse Gray Hackle from one's ear is not as much fun as removing from a nice trout—stay clear of tyros with short fly rods!

NEWS RELEASES

(Continued from page 5.)

change the ocean dumping procedures.

ACTION NOW! is the cry and the public must be told the full facts on this dangerous situation. For further information, call George H. Wilde (516) SU 5-3139.

LIEC ENERGY BOOKLET

The Long Island Environmental Council is applying its own energies to promoting the energy conservation effort among citizens and businessmen.

Do you want valuable hints on how to save energy and money in the home, in the office and on the road?

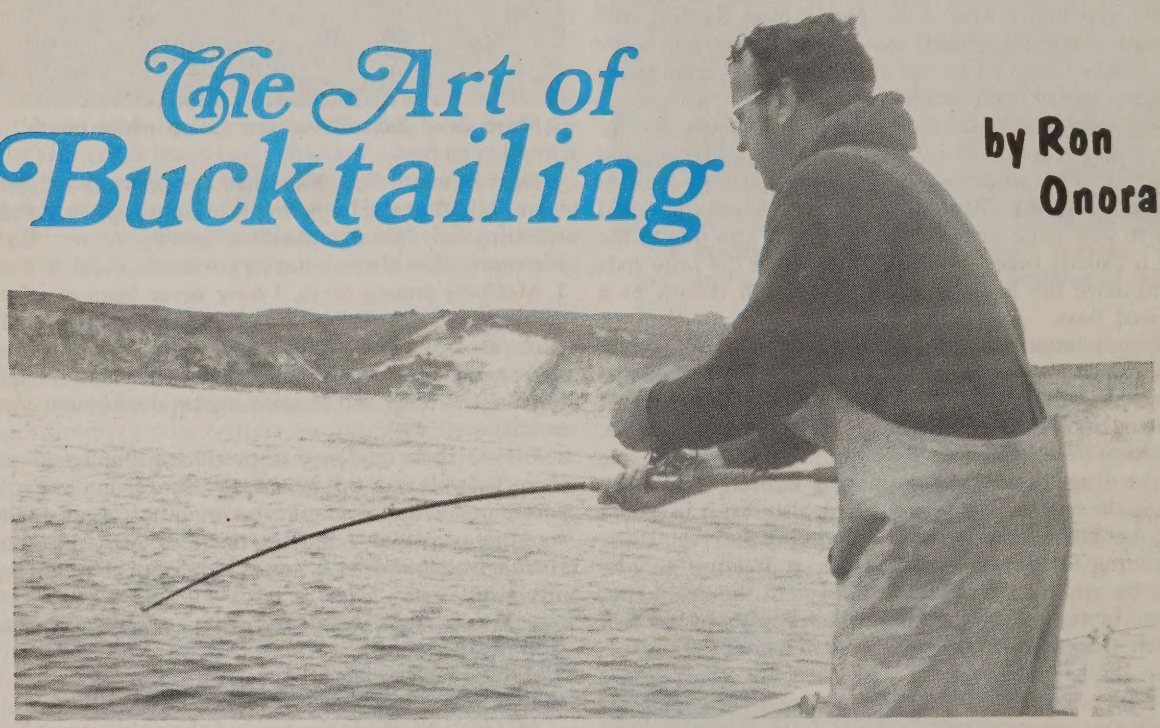
Write to the Council for "ECO-TIPS", an eight page booklet confronting the energy problem head-on and suggesting how you, as an individual or as an organization member, can help to combat it.

The booklet covers such subjects as heating and cooling homes and buildings, transportation, refrigeration, lighting, use of household appliances and disposal of waste products.

Individuals may obtain a copy by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Long Island Environmental Council, 95 Middle Neck Road, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Quantities are available at $5.00 per 100 copies.

The Art of Bucktailing

by Ron Onorato



Aglance into the tackle box of the average fisherman reveals a wide variety of lures. One lure that seems always to be present is the bucktail jig. If the question was asked, "If you were able to choose just one lure to fish with, what lure would you select?," I believe that the vast majority of fishermen would choose the bucktail jig. The bucktail jig is versatile in the fact that it can be cast, trolled, or deep-jigged and still produce fish. The bucktail jig is as old as fishing, and has survived through many generations of fishermen.

The basic jig consists of a hook with a lead head molded around it. To the shank of the hook is tied bucktail. More recently, synthetic nylon has replaced the expensive bucktail, and some manufacturers are even replacing the bucktail with plastic tails. Even with these modifications, the jig still produces fish. In order to successfully use a bucktail jig, a little must be known about the tackle and techniques used for each type of fishing.

Casting a bucktail is the easiest way of using the jig. Small jigs ranging in weights from ¼ ounce up to 3 ounces are deadly. Any sort of light spinning outfit is a good bet when seeking small stripers or weakfish. When fishing in areas where the current is light, or if the fish are feeding near the surface, jigs of between ¼ to ¾ ounce are ideal. Flip the jig out, and begin the retrieve after it hits the surface. If there is a strong current, then a heavier outfit may be needed to cast a 1 or 2 ounce jig. Let the jig sink a few seconds and begin the retrieve.

There is no single, standard type of retrieve that should be used; you should experiment with many types. The basic retrieve is a steady reeling-in of the jig after it hits the surface. Sometimes you should let the jig settle to the bottom before beginning the retrieve. While reeling in the jig, it often pays to stop for a moment. In this manner the jig will dart downward, apparently like an injured fish. At other times, bouncing the jig off the bottom will turn the trick. The only way to determine the best retrieve is to keep experimenting until you start hitting fish.

When fishing the heavy surf for big stripers or bluefish, it is not unusual to use jigs that are as heavy as 3 or 4 ounces. The favored method for fishing these jigs is to let them settle to the bottom and slowly drag them across the floor of the ocean. Every time the jig bounces on the sand bottom, a puff of sand arises and this imitates a grab burrowing into the bottom. When casting a jig, you control the depth by merely speeding up or slowing down the rate of retrieve.

A trolled bucktail jig is as deadly a lure as any around. Many of the larger bass fall to a properly trolled jig. Those unfamiliar with trolling bucktails merely tie one on the end of the line they are fishing with, put the rod into the rod holder, and hope for the best. This is the one way not to fish a jig. For the most part, you will be using either wire or lead core line. The only time you will be using straight monofilament is if you are fishing in very shoal waters 8 to 10 feet in depth. When using either of the weighted lines, it is necessary to use a mono leader at least 10 to 15 feet in length. Tie the jig directly to the leader; do not use any snaps or swivels.

Once the jig is in the water strip off the desired amount of line and cut the engine to trolling speed. Instead of putting the rod into the holder, hang on to it. Every few seconds lift the rod forward sharply, then let the jig settle. Keep repeating this process for the duration of the troll. Don't just leave the jig dead in the water; work it, or it won't have proper action. You can keep the trolling equipment on the light to medium side when fishing bucktails.

The true potential of the jig is realized when the fish are really deep and the only way to reach them is by deep jigging. Deep jigging consists of lowering the jig into the depths, and working it in the vicinity of the bottom. Deep jigging requires more precision in the way of tackle and techniques than either of the other two methods.

Deep jigging originated in the South where fishing jigs off the deep water reefs is a way of life. In our waters, the use of deep jigging is restricted mostly to bluefish when they are in deep water, and to codfish. When the bluefish arrive in the Sound by July, they feed actively for a short length of time, and then sulk in the extreme depths of mid-sound.

Any sort of light to medium action boat rod or spinning outfit that will handle jigs up to 3 ounces in weight will suffice. I like conventional tackle over spinning because I get a better feel of the jig with the conventional stuff. This is

merely a matter of preference, since many fishermen score well with spinning gear. The one important thing to remember when choosing a jigging rod is to make sure that it has enough backbone to lift a hefty fish from the depths. Also, try to stay away from a rod tip that tends to collapse when you lift the jig sharply.

When using spinning reels, it is not necessary to go heavier than 15 pound test monofilament. The lighter the line that you use, the less the need for heavier jigs. On conventional reels, I will use no more than 20 pound test mono. There is no need for heavier line. As long as the mono is a top grade, you should have no trouble handling any fish that may come along.

Now that you have the basic tackle, the next step is the jigging itself. When seeking bluefish, I use a six-inch steel leader of about 20 pound test. If I am looking for codfish or pollack, I will tie the line direct to the jig by using the improved clinch knot. This knot will give you about 95% of the line strength, if properly tied.

If you are fortunate enough to have a fish recorder on your boat, then your battle is half won. If not, then you have to find the fish through trial and error. When bluefishing in water 60 to 80 feet deep, (the blues are often found at depths of over 100 feet in mid-Sound) you lower the jig to the bottom and turn the reel handle a couple of times so that the jig is just a few feet off the bottom. Then, with a sharp motion, you lift the rod tip and then let the jig settle down again. If you do not hit any action at the bottom, you can raise the jig a few feet off the bottom by turning the reel handle a few times. Keep the jigging process up until you have discovered the right level of feeding fish. Once you have found the level at which the fish are feeding, you can concentrate your efforts there. At times, deep jigging is very tiring, but the resulting catches are often worth it.

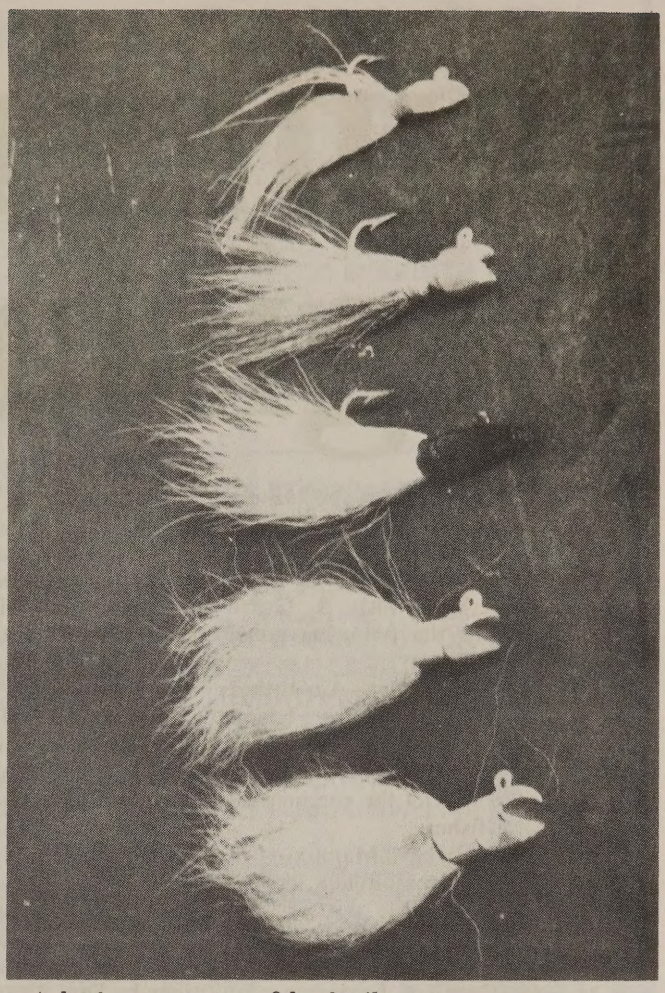
The versatility of the bucktail is evident by its popularity among fishermen of all types. Although most people associate the bucktail with such popular gamefish as weaks, bass, and blues, other species of fish will hit a bucktail. One of the more voracious feeders, the fluke, will hit a well-worked bucktail as readily as the traditional killie or squid strip. When the codfish move inshore at Montauk along with the pollack, the bucktail jig will outfish the bait fisherman at times. Don't be surprised if a big porgy makes a pass at the jig.

Although there are some fishermen who specialize in the use of the bucktail jig, the average fisherman should add the jig to the tackle box along with the rest of his lures. Instead of relying on just one technique, the art of jigging and bucktailing should be added to your bag of tricks. Whether the fish are deep or on the surface, or whether you prefer spinning tackle to conventional gear, don't hesitate to use the bucktail jig.

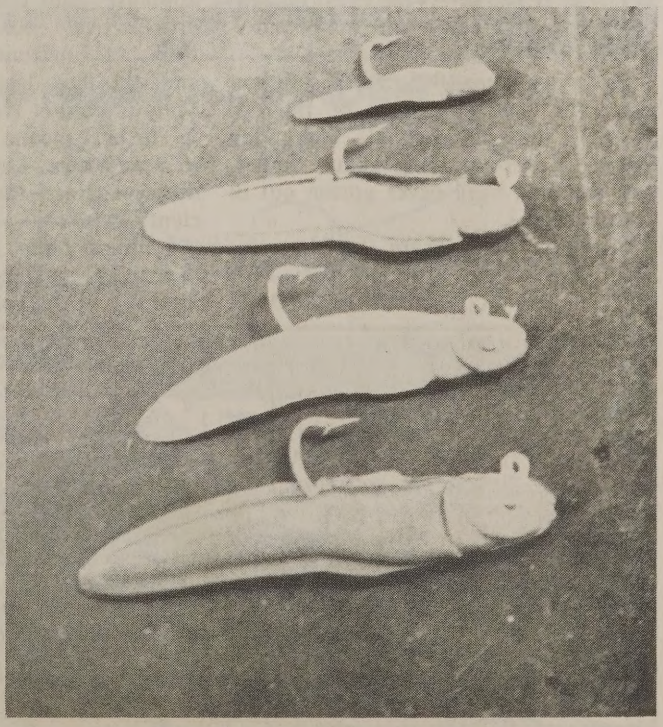
You should have no trouble obtaining bucktail jigs; they are found at almost every tackle store on this Island. While white is the most popular color, I have found yellow and dark blue to be more productive. You can buy the jigs bare and tie on the hair tails by purchasing a whole bucktail.

Plastic tail jigs are the latest innovation to the fishing scene. They are fished the same way regular jigs are. Nylon is often used to replace the bucktail, and it may work, but nothing beats the rythm of deer tail 'breathing' in the water.

By sweetening the jig with a strip of pork rind, you further increase the effectiveness of the jig. The next time the tried and true methods fail to produce fish, break out the jig and get ready for action.



A basic assortment of bucktails.



Plastic jigs (Bait Tails, in this case) can be substituted for bucktails. Both types are effective.

Bunker Boat Legislation

Ted Keatley

Last January 17, over 600 Long Island Sound sport fishermen attended a BUNKER BOAT MEETING in White Plains sponsored by the Southern New York Fish & Game Assoc. and heard the following panel discuss the problem:

Chairman Ted Keatley—Co-author of Fishing Western Long Island Sound

Sen. Joseph R. Pisani—Sponsor of legislation to restrict the commercial mossbunker fishery

Assemblyman Richard Mannix—Co-sponsor of the mossbunker legislation

Albert C. Jensen—Regional Supervisor, Marine and Coastal Resources, N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

David H.clarke—Vice Pres. of Seacoast Products Co.—the major mossbunker processor in the area.

Each year since 1965, Sen. Pisani had been the lonely sponsor of bills to restrict the commercial menhaden fishery in western Long Island Sound, but the bills have never gotten out of committee.

However, Sen. Pisani felt that this year would be different IF THE SPORTSMEN GIVE HIM SUPPORT.

He has entered three bills—the two complete closure bills which he has filed year after year plus a new one restricting commercial netting to the area at least one half mile outside the main Long Island Sound channel buoy line.

Sen. Pisani expressed the opinion that the complete closure bills had no more chance of passage than in previous years, but was certain that the buoy line measure had a good chance of success if sportsmen got behind it. As an indication of the changed attitude in Albany, Assemblyman Mannix was alone in filing Assembly bills last year, but has eight co-sponsors for the buoy line bill in this session.

The audience responded to presentations by Sen. Pisani and Assemblyman Mannix with rounds of cheers and applause—but this is not enough. We must actively seek the support of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation and the key legislators. Pisani and Mannix cannot do it alone.

The best means of getting support is to write letters. These do not have to be literary gems—the following is sufficient:

I am a Long Island Sound sport fisherman and feel that the current intensity of the commercial menhaden fishery is greatly reducing my success in fishing for striped bass and bluefish.

Therefore, I ask that you support S-7245/A-8562, the Pisani/Mannix buoy line bill to restrict the areas open to menhaden seining in western Long Island Sound.

I also ask that you endeavor to change the effective date of the legislation to this coming summer rather than July 1, 1975 as specified in the bill as filed.

Now, sit down and send similar letters to:

1) Your own state senator
2) Your own assemblyman
3) Comm. James L. Biggane, N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Albany, N.Y. 12226
4) Chairman Bernard Smith, Committee on Conservation & Recreation, N.Y. State Senate, Albany, N.Y. 12201
5) Chairman C.D. Lane, Committee on Environmental Conservation, N.Y. State Assembly, Albany, N.Y. 12201.

If you fail to support our legislative friends now, you will be a complete hypocrite later if the measure fails to pass and you begin to complain loudly about the bunker boats.

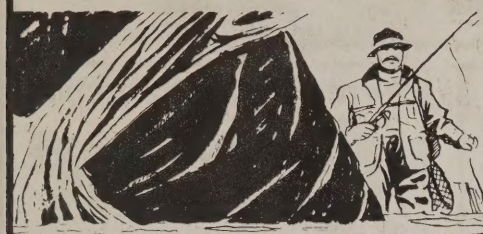
Check out the fishermen who are on the beaches at dawn--
at sunset--in the middle of the night--the pros, the regulars,
the sharpshooters--the boys that fish HARD--you'll find that most use a CRACK REEL.
THEN--CHECK OUT A CRACK REEL AT YOUR FAVORITE TACKLE SHOP!!!

WATER POLLUTION is destroying your SPORT!

What are *YOU* doing about it?
FIGHT POLLUTION!!!

IT'S TROUT TIME AGAIN

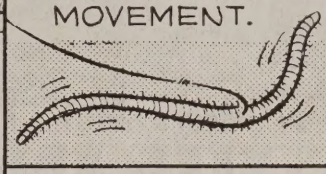
BY FRED GUARDINEER



TROUT SEASON
APRIL 1 - SEPT. 30
LIMIT 10 -ANYSIZE

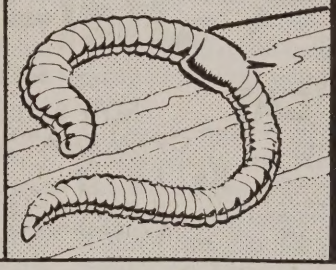
NO FISHING IN
FRESHWATER ON L.I.
MAR. 1-31

EARTHWORMS ARE COVERED WITH MICROSCOPIC BRISTLES WHICH IT PRESSES AGAINST THE WALLS OF ITS TUNNEL TO EXPEDITE MOVEMENT.



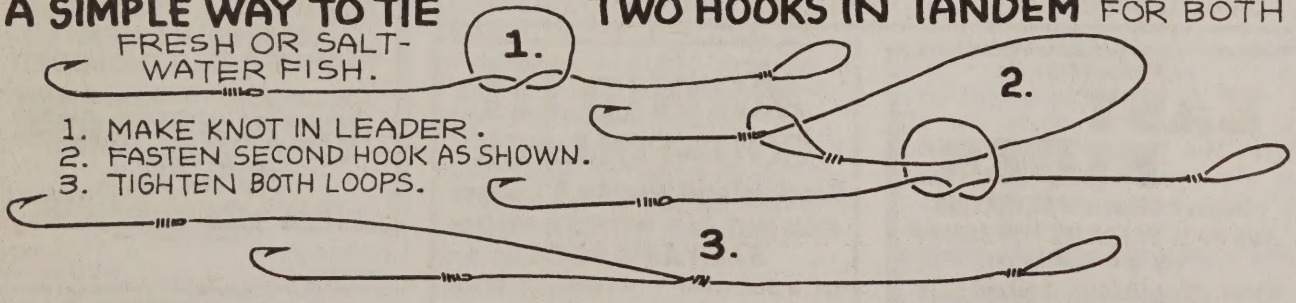
GLASS CIGAR TUBES ARE EXCELLENT HOLDERS OF PLASTIC WORMS & TACKLE.

NIGHTCRAWLERS WERE IMPORTED TO NORTH AMERICA FROM EUROPE TO IMPROVE THE SOIL. THEY ARE HERMAPHRODITES OR BISEXUAL CREATURES WITH BOTH MALE AND FEMALE ORGANS. BUT IT STILL TAKES TWO TO TANGO AND MAKE LITTLE NIGHTCRAWLERS.



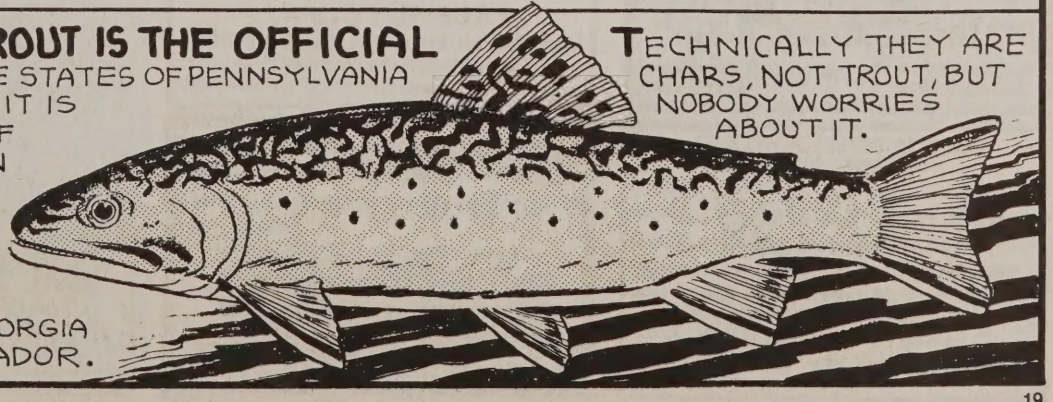
OPENING DAY TROUT ARE LAZY IN VERY COLD WATER AND DON'T DO MUCH CHASING OF FLIES, WORMS OR BUGS. FISH EACH SPOT INCH BY INCH UPSTREAM AND DOWN. WHEN THE BAIT PASSES CLOSE ENOUGH, HE'LL INHALE IT. GIVE HIM *TIME* TO SWALLOW LARGE WORMS.

A SIMPLE WAY TO TIE TWO HOOKS IN TANDEM FOR BOTH FRESH OR SALT-WATER FISH.



1. MAKE KNOT IN LEADER.
2. FASTEN SECOND HOOK AS SHOWN.
3. TIGHTEN BOTH LOOPS.

THE BROOK TROUT IS THE OFFICIAL FISH OF BOTH THE STATES OF PENNSYLVANIA AND MICHIGAN. IT IS THE FAVORITE OF TROUT FISHERMEN AS THEY HIT HARD, FIGHT GAMELY AND TASTE GREAT. BROOK TROUT RANGE FROM GEORGIA NORTH TO LABRADOR.



TECHNICALLY THEY ARE CHARS, NOT TROUT, BUT NOBODY WORRIES ABOUT IT.

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6 Hours Fishing Time
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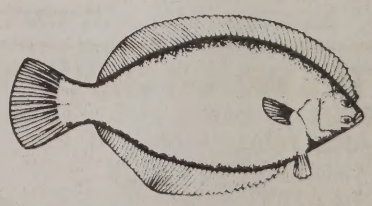
Box 589, Montauk, N.Y. 11954



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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

The first snowshoe flounder report comes from Capt. Paul Forsberg of the Viking Star. They had one of about 3½ pounds. Maybe he's the advance party for more to come! Meanwhile, Capt. Paul has been fishing Block Island and the Southwest Ledge with good success on the cod. Six to ten pound fish are the average catch while the pool fish go to 25 or 30 lbs.

The Peconic Queen had good fishing for cod all week and on Saturday. On Sunday it blew up to 50 mile an hour winds and the fishing dropped off.

Capt. George Glas called to say that the Hel-Cat will sail this coming weekend at 6 A.M.

SAG HARBOR

Helen Jacobsen at the Noyac Marina called to report flounders being taken at the Noyac Creek. Bill Fales along with Mike and John Albert, Brian Hoffman and George (no name, please) caught 80 flounders on worms. They kept 45 of them which ranged in weight from ¾ to 1½ pounds. Helen said the snack bar is open and they have bait.

MORICHES

Chet of B & B Tackle said one of his customers called Hansen picked up 15 yellowtails using red dyed clams. Hansen was fishing in the Quogue Canal. There were black backed and yellowtail flounder at Buoy 17 and they were being caught on both clams and worms.

MASTIC BEACH

Keenan's Fishing Station called to report very good flounder fishing just a short run from his docks. The flatties are being taken on bloodworms.

CAPTREE

The Capt. Ben Litwin has been flounder fishing with fair success. The Bay Shore Canal and the flats off LaSalle Academy seemed to produce best, however, high winds made it rough for the fishermen. This early in the season 12 to 15 fish per man is not bad, everything considered.

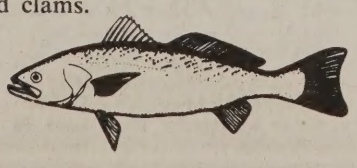
The Capt. Joseph Fleet sailed both boats this past weekend. According to both captains, the fishing was very good. The flounders were running between a pound and a pound and a half. No amounts were given regarding the catch, however, everyone seemed satisfied according to Capt. Joseph.

The Capt. Scotty sailed with passengers this Sunday for the first time since it had the extra ten feet added to its stern. Capt. George Tweedy said the boat is now faster and more stable than before. Unfortunately the first trip for flounders was short lived because of the high winds. Until then they were doing pretty well on the flounders.

Flounder fishing was good for the Capt. Richie this past weekend. They averaged over 35 fish per man. The Heckscher flats is where this action took place.

SEAFORD

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station in Seaford reports a lot of flatties of ¾ to 1 lb. in size being caught. They were taken about 1000 feet south of Four Corners near the red pole in about 10 feet of water. Incoming tide is the best while using thin strips of regular or red dyed clams.



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6AM Daily 5AM Sat., Sun. & Hol.

Capt. Bud Dorman (516) 668-2720

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

Despite strong winds over the weekend, good flounder fishing was had aboard the Commodore. Capt. Clam has been fishing up in the back creeks. It is the same area where he caught flounders in February. These fish are now up to a pound in size.

Capt. Richie Kessinger is like an expectant new father. I did not get to talk to him as he came straight in from fishing and took a plane down to Louisiana to see his new boat. His son reported that the codfishing was fair.

To all those people that showed up last week to go fishing aboard the Aloma II, we express our apologies. The L.I.F. inadvertently printed the Aloma II advertisement a week early. Capt. Paul Schmidt hopes no one was too disappointed. He will be sailing this coming weekend.

The Capt. Al had fair codfishing this past week. Thursday's fishing produced a 44 lb. codfish. It is now getting to that time of year where it is a toss-up between cod or flounder, so Capt. Al is going to play the odds and go flounder fishing.

The Tampa V has been catching whiting out around the Ambrose Tower and other points. The catches have been very good, with double-headers making it more fun. On Sunday the weather turned bad. The new boat, Tampa V, is so fast, they were in at eleven o'clock.

Capt. Fred Ardolino of the Amberjack IV had scheduled an offshore wreck fishing trip which was blown out. The trip is now scheduled for this coming Sunday with a 2 A.M. sailing time. Bring good strong rods and tackle, says Fred, as the wrecks are loaded with fish.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle reports some flounder activity in the Orchard Beach Lagoon. Those people with small boats should try there and maybe come in with some good catches. Jack said the party boats will start sailing this Saturday.

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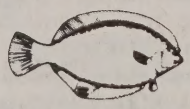
FLOUNDER
7 AM DAILY



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CAPT. JOSEPH V—SAILS DAILY
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108 St. & Collins Ave., Miami Beach, Fla.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle reports a few flounder being caught in the Great Peconic Bay. Nothing to rave about, but it's a start. The flounders are fat and average about a pound. Warren says he has bait and chum available.

GREENPORT

Art White said some small boats were out this weekend and they had fair success on flounders. The party boats are scheduled to sail this weekend.

CONNECTICUT SCENE with Dick Alley

Here it is, even before St. Patty's Day, and the flounder are out of the mud and getting better every day. Flounder fishing ranges the entire length of the Connecticut shoreline, with the best reports coming from the Mystic area, and some action in the salt ponds off the Rhode Island shore.

Checking the bait and tackle shops and boat liveries in Westchester and Connecticut, we found some ready to go, and others making plans for the near future.

In Westchester, where some of the first flounder have come in scaling a pound, Cameron's Boats has bait and boats for the coming weekend. Point Tackle in Rye is also carrying bait, and reports some small flats taken in the canal at Milton Harbor.

In Stamford, Jack's Sporting Goods reports flounder hitting in the cove, and at Cummings Beach. In Norwalk, Calf Pasture Pier is producing, and both Mola Bros. and The Tackle Box have bait in supply.

In Westport it's that same Bridge Street drawbridge that is paying off for customers at the Westport Tackle Shop.

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Daily Except Monday & Tuesday
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At Ft. of Long Beach Bridge, Island Park

CLUB NEWS

ATLANTIS ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

The Atlantis Anglers Association (of Freeport) recently had elections of new officers. They are as follows:

walter stammel - President
MARK H. KAUFMAN - Vice Pres.
HARRY FINNERTY - Treasurer
RONNIE VAN DINA - Secretary.

Members also planned coming events for this year, which include tournaments, raft-ups, picnics, etc. They would appreciate anybody interested in joining the fishing club to please contact Mr. Jack Darragh, evenings, at 516-RO6-4161 or Mark Kaufman, evenings, at 516-887-3978. The club is now accepting new members.

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB DINNER DANCE

The Freeport Tuna Club announced that its 37th Anniversary Dinner-Dance would be held on Saturday evening, March 23, 1974. The fete will be held at Manor East, corner of Broadway and Jerusalem Avenues, Massapequa. Contact Ronnie De Luca at (516) 541-5446 for additional information.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB ANNOUNCES COMING EVENTS

BTC Freeport Tuna, July 13 & 14
BTC Invitational, July 27 & 28
BTC Squaw Island Shark, Sept. 1, alt.2
BTC Invitational Dance, Oct. 5
BTC Annual Dinner Dance, Feb 1,1975
Bayshore Mako, June 29 & 30
L.I. Marlin and Tuna, July 13 & 14
U.S.A.T.T., Sept. 10, 11, 12
East Bay Anglers Chiller, Nov. 17
Chopper Contest, July 20

IT'S FLOUNDER TIME

(Continued from page 11.)

back on another until he reaches the one that catches fish. Perhaps a red or yellow painted sinker? Maybe red or yellow dyed clams? Or a combination bait of worm and clam? How about a bit of bottom jigging? Pounding bottom with a sashweight? Perhaps dragging the anchor with the aid of the outboard? Drifting? The experienced fisherman knows all these methods and more, and will put them, or some variation, to use whenever necessary. This is one reason he is apt to return with fish when others fail.

Which all leads to this: if you are not sure about getting your share of flounders this spring, there are several things you can do. Read up on your subject, gathering all information and put it to use, or—much better—armed with that information, latch on to an experienced fisherman, observe his methods, listen and ask questions. A true fisherman will always help a tryo if approached in a proper manner.

Better than this, though, is to take a trip on a party boat. Here is where you will always meet other fishermen willing to give helpful advice. The captain and crew will put you over fish, and with their professional help you are practically assured fish. It is the quickest and surest way of learning the fundamentals—the fundamentals you will need when you decide you have had enough fumming and fretting over winter, when an early March morning looks just right, and you know "it's flounder time!"

CONNECTICUT

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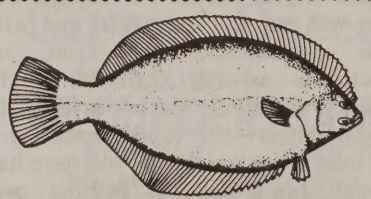

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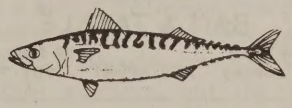

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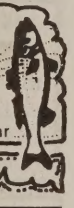

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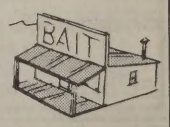

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ROCCUS WONDERLAND

(Continued from page 13.)

needed sleep. During the day the weather took a turn for the worse—we found seas running up to fifteen feet on the rip. This was our third trip to the Sow and Pigs. It takes a lot of knowledge and experience to fish in this weather. That evening we started with one bucktail and a swimming plug and caught three bass and two bluefish in about three hours. With the sea building it would be just a matter of time before we would have to go in.

At this time I decided to use that old productive standby, the rigged eel skin. There are few bass that will turn down this succulent offering if fished properly. After about thirty minutes I was rewarded with what I had come for, a beautiful thirty-two pound *Roccus.* So, for four and a half hours of fishing, we had twelve fish. Even with the weather as bad as it was, we were very pleased. We washed the salt water off ourselves and again found a wonderful dinner waiting for us.

The last morning we were at the dock at four a.m. The captain had decided we were going to fish at Quick's Hole. (This is an opening between two of the islands; it also is frequently fished and is a productive spot.) Overnight the weather had changed to provide us with a beautiful morning, but the water seemed to be very dirty. Here we found that the fish preferred bucktails. We fished until the end of the outgoing tide and took a total of eleven fish; bass and bluefish mixed. Now, after sixteen hours of fishing, we had thirty fish. This is not what you call loading the boat, but it is the experience and enjoyment everyone gains from each trip that counts. This also was about three weeks prior to the fall run.

The boats we used are essentially built for the area and bear the island's name, Mackenzie Cuttyhunk. The captains know their equipment and all are of the Old Salt vintage. There are five charter boats operating from the island. Also, a few boats fish around this island from the mainland. We fished aboard the Linda B with Captain Bob Bauer and found everything quite suitable.

Even though this island is not really publicized, it is a must to get reservations extremely early in the year. Keep in mind that the best months are June and October. Of course, this varies with the weather and water conditions. There is a ferry you may take, or seaplane service is available from New Bedford.

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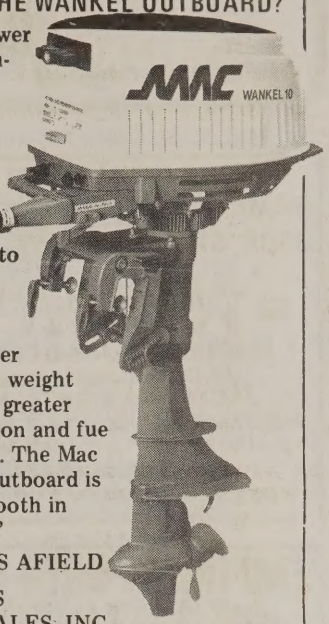

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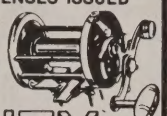

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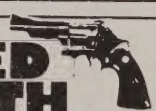

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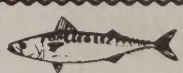

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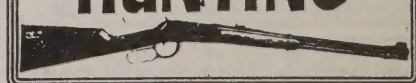

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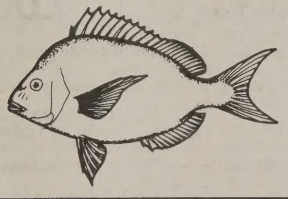

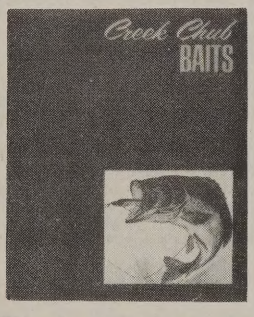

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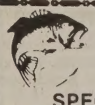

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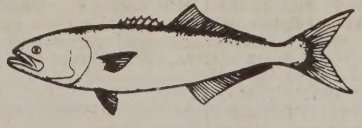

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HAMPTON BAYS—large efficiencies on Bay: beach - pool - cable T.V. - air cond. Fun & comfort for entire family. Brochures on request. Hampton Arms Resort, 61 W. Tiana Road (516) 728-4161.

FISHERMAN'S PARADISE, 1 & 2 bedroom cottages, FREE rowboats, marina, bait, tackle, motors available. WE HAVE GAS. Low off season rates. Colonial Shores, 83 West Tiana Road, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. (516) 728-0011.

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HAMPTON BAYS—Rent now for full summer season. One & two bedroom cottages from $750.00 - Crescent Cottages (516) 728-3148 or (516) 728-9449.

WANTED—BOAT TRAILER 19'-20'. Call (212) 347-4637.

FISHING TACKLE

FREE! 1974 Catalog of TRI-FIN lures. World's finest and largest selection of tube lures. For casting, trolling or jigging. E-Sea Tackle Co., P.O. Box 80, Smithtown, N.Y. 11787.

SPRING FLOUNDER ARE HERE! Greet them with 3-HOOK KILLER RIG. Custom construction helps keep snelled hooks from tangling up. .75 per rig—3 for $2—5 for $3—10 for $5 write: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpk., Merrick, N.Y. 11566

FLOUNDER RIGS STORES DONT CARRY. OUR CREATION. Puts hooks where fish are. 2-HOOK RIG $.50 two for $.90. 3-HOOK RIG $.65 two for $1.15. Write: Marimar Associates, 2709 Walker Street, Bellmore, N.Y. 11710.

FISHERMEN: Record your catch! Send $1.00 Postpaid for detailed Fisherman's Log, includes catagories for both saltwater and freshwater fish catches, to: J-RAD, TC Branch, Box 49, West Orange, N.J. 07052.

WANTED—Rockaway sail fish chair, chrome plated, 3" base, without foot rest. Call (203) 274-4954, or write Capt. Anthony D. Natelle, P.O. Box 263, Watertown, Conn. 06795.

WANTED—2 Rockaway Fishing Chairs Chrome on Brass/Bronze. Must be reasonable. W. Scott, 145 Margaret Blvd., Merrick, N.Y. 11566. Phone (516) FR 9-7614.

STRIPER HAUNTS - Revised for 1974 - includes NEWEST HOT SPOTS in N.Y., N.J. and Conn. We'll show you exactly WHERE, WHEN AND HOW—Based on our 30 years of CONSISTANT SUCCESSES. Send $3 to DF, Box 441 Huntington, N.Y. 11743.

TUNA TOWER & RADAR STANDS, custom made to your specifications. Aluminum construction, welded joints, delivered and fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Call Bob Christian for free estimate (516) 286-8147.

PORGY TREES: Special 4-Hook "Porgy Tree" will double and triple your "Poggie" catch this summer. $3 gives you 3 hand-tied rigs with easy-to-follow directions for tying your own. Order now and receive instructions on how to tie special 6 and 8-hook porgy trees for commercial fishing as a bonus. Send check to: Scott Simons, 152 Edmunton Drive, Apt. 16D, North Babylon, N.Y. 11703.

TANDEM HOOK FLUKE RIG. Start catching those fluke that bite short and miss your hook! Hand tied tandem-hook rig puts a hook where strip-baits are normanlly bitten off by fluke. Send $3 for 3 rigs and directions on how to tie your own to avoid paying this ridiculous price to: Scott Simons, 152 Edmunton Drive, Apt. 16D, North Babylon, N.Y. 11703.

To place an ad in The Long Island Fisherman Classified call (516) 667-6636. Classified ads are billed at 15 cents a word with a $4.50 or 30 word minimum. Discounts on extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; 50 times, 15%. Ask about our Photo Classified. Effective date Jan. 1, 1973.

CHUM LINES
(Continued from page 4.)

dumping poses no threat for five or ten years, TO THE SHORELINE! What has it done to us already, and in ten years? L.I.F., more publicity is needed. Perhaps a feature article in your fine magazine could start the ball rolling. Charlie Kerdock, President, Piscators Fishing Club.

We at the Fisherman share Mr. Kerdock's concern over the sleight-of-hand routine in progress over the sludge problem. This had been anticipated by us when this ghastly news made a column in the N.Y.Times, and we have since had some investigatory work done by Bill Bornscheur. The summary of what Bill gleaned from both official and unofficial sources will be published in The Fisherman in a few weeks.

Save Our Bays Association (SOBA) of Long Island is co-sponsoring, with friends of the Earth and the Striped Bass Fund, an open meeting on Friday, May 10, at Seaford H.S. Time will be 8:00 p.m. We urge all concerned citizens to attend this session to discuss this latest threat to our waters and marshlands and, not least of all, to our health!

EXCHANGING BOAT RAMP AND BEACH FACILITIES?

During these times of fuel shortages, many Long Islanders will be staying close to home during the Spring-Summer-Fall vacation months. In order for us to make better use of our nearby facilities, I have the following suggestions to make.

I suggest that Islip and Smithtown permit the residents of either town to use the beach and boat ramp facilities of either town. I would limit this arrangement to WEEKDAYS AND NON-HOLIDAYS.

The advantages of such an arrangement are:

(1) bathers from either town would have additional places to go on either sound, bay or ocean;

(2) boat owners who trailer their boats would have easy access to north and south shore waters for fishing, sailing or cruising.

The disadvantages of such an arrangement are nil. The town beaches and ramp facilities are underused during the week, and a few more bathers or boats would inconvenience no one. Wesley J. Kley, Brentwood, N.Y.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Get your copy of The Long Island Fisherman delivered to your home in time to help plan your fishing trip next week...

Fill out this coupon and send with your remittance.

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I belong to the _____ **fishing club.**

Send to: *The Long Island Fisherman* • P.O. Box 143 • Deer Park, N.Y. 11729

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

Thurs.	10:35	**4:45**	10:55	**5:10**
Fri.	11:25	**5:40**	11:50	**6:00**
Sat.		**6:25**	12:15	**6:50**
Sun.	12:35	**7:10**	1:05	**7:40**
Mon.	1:20	**7:50**	1:55	**8:15**
Tues.	2:00	**8:30**	2:30	**8:25**
Weds.	2:40	**9:10**	3:10	**9:35**
Thurs.	3:20	**9:50**	3:50	**10:15**

TIDE TABLES

	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
THURSDAY	12:45	1:06	2:30	3:04	4:10	4:47	4:14	4:47
FRIDAY	1:34	1:57	3:28	4:05	5:03	6:12	5:08	5:44
SATURDAY	2:26	2:54	4:32	5:12	6:31	7:31	6:07	6:46
SUNDAY	3:26	3:57	5:31	6:10	7:51	8:32	7:11	7:45
MONDAY	4:27	5:03	6:24	7:00	8:52	9:26	8:09	8:39
TUESDAY	5:27	5:57	7:14	7:42	9:43	10:09	9:02	9:28
WEDNESDAY	6:20	6:44	7:54	8:20	10:27	10:49	9:50	10:11
THURSDAY	7:03	7:23	8:36	8:56	11:01	11:17	10:32	10:51

on SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0	50
Shinnecock Bay	+1	25
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05
MORICHES INLET	−0	56
Smith's Point	+3	28
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potunck Point	+3	35
Mastic Beach	+3	28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0	38
(Inlet,Breakwater & Dem. Pt.)	−0	38
Coast Guard Station	−0	19
Fire Island Light	+0	47
GREAT SOUTH BAY		
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3	39
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
Bay Shore	+2	23
Babylon	+2	12
Amityville	+2	21
JONES INLET	−0	19
Loop Parkway Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
Freeport Creek	+0	34
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	−0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
ROCKAWAY INLET	+0	00
Beach Channel (Bridge)	+0	38
JFK Airport	+0	26
STATEN ISLAND	+0	27
MANASQUAN	−0	12

on NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	−0	14
Fort Pond Bay	−0	29
Montauk Inlet	−0	25
Montauk Point	−1	13

on WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0	10
Execution Light	−0	06
Manhasset Bay	−0	01
Hempstead Harbor	−0	11
City Island	−0	03
Rye Beach	−0	28

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW

1st Qtr.

FULL

Last Qtr.

on BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	−0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	+0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0	08
Herod Point	−0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	−0	20
Truman Beach	−0	42

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

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